

# Clan ALISON



<b>ARMS</b>	Black with a silver fesse, between three silver talbots
<b>CREST</b>	Not available
<b>MOTTO</b>	Truth prevails

**A**lison, Allison – usually explained as a metronymic, ‘son of Alice,’ but more probably it is ‘son of Ellis.’ Lower says: “it may be remarked that the vulgar pronunciation of Ellis in the south is exactly the same as that of the female personal name Alice.” In some few cases Alison and Allison may be forms of Allanson. In 1559 a woman, Jonet Alystone, was also referred to as Jonet Alanesone. On the other hand, with reference to Scottish Alison or Allison, Mr. L. A. Morrison in his *The History of the Alison or Allison family in Europe and America*, Boston, 1893, says that it is “a fact beyond doubt that Alison comes from Alister or Alexander, and, further that the Alisons are offshoots of the famous clan of MacAlister”, and that the origin of the same name is due to two sons of Alexander MacAlister of Loupe who with some of their followers escaped to the parish of Avondale, Lanarkshire, during the war of Independence, and there later their name was changed from MacAlister to Alison. He further states that, “the names Alison, Allison, Alinson, Allinson, and of Elison, Ellison, Elissen, Ellysen are found thus spelled in the early history of some branches of the recent Allison family. They are interchangeably mixed”. The name was often spelled Ellison and Allison when referring to the same individual. This may have been so in some instances but the claim as a whole is too sweeping. Patrick Alisone del cunte de Berewyk rendered homage, 1296. Peter Alesoun was a witness in Brechin, 1490. Thomas Alesoun appears in Lochtoun, Scone, 1586. James Allasone was Bailie of Ranfrew, 1688, and Gabriel Alason was Bailie of the burgh of Dumfries, 1693. Other early spellings are Alesone 1543, Alesoune 1585, Aliesoune 1616, Aliesone, Allasoune, Allisone, Elisone 1668, Alizon, Allasone 1551, Allasoun 1636, Allasson 1671, Allason, Alleson, Allesoun, Allesoune, Allsoun. Alison as the forename of a woman began to make its appearance about the beginning of the fifteenth century. Miss Youge (2d ed., p. 405-406) thinks it is from Aloyse (the feminine form of Provençal Aloys), whose correspondence with Abelard was the theme of so much sentiment, and whose fame, brought to Scotland by Scottish Archers in the French service, was the origin of the numerous Alisons found there. The -n probably represents the diminutive ending. Helise Mackcoulogh appears in 1478. Elison Darymple was spouse of Gavin Fullarton, 1514. Alison Home was prioress of North Berwick 1524. Aylsone or Helysounne Rouche slew her godson Alexander Cant, burgess of Edinburgh 1535. Allison Allasoune appears in Glasgow, 1554. Ellesone Tayis appears in Lanark, 1566. Elison Begbie jilted the poet Robert Burns.

Taken from *Surnames of Scotland*, by Black. The New York Public Library.

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